GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2009
AGRI-EXPORT ZONES
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up development of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the details of the location where AEZs are functioning alongwith their activities, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any study on the performance of such AEZs and to assess their utility;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the AEZs provide opportunities for under represented States which have potential for growth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. So far, the Government of India has sanctioned 60 Agri-Export Zones in 20 states of the country. The list of 60 AEZs is Annexed.

(c)&(d) A peer evaluation of the existing AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

(i) Project orientation in their conceptual design;

(ii) Awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs;

(iii) Effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs; and

(iv) Effective public participation.

The main elements of the remedial action plan are setting up of institutional administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the progress of implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus for their revival as well as to make them model AEZs.

(e)&(f) State-wise details of AEZs, products covered by them, investment and exports from these AEZs is Annexed.